

Amendment No. 1 to HB0854

Farmer
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 919

House Bill No. 854*

by deleting all language following the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-119(c), is amended by redesignating the current language as subdivision (c)(1) and adding the following new subdivisions:

(2) If the child is three (3) years of age or less at the time the petition is filed, the court has received the final court report concerning the circumstances of the child and the petitioners, and is satisfied that the adoption will be in the best interest of the child, then the court may reduce the six-month waiting period after the filing of the adoption petition to a three-month period and may enter an order of adoption.

(3) If the child is within six (6) months of turning eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the final hearing of adoption, the court has received the final court report concerning the circumstances of the child and the petitioners, and is satisfied that the adoption will be in the best interest of the child, then the court may waive the six-month waiting period after the filing of the adoption petition and may enter an order of adoption.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-113, is amended by deleting subsection (k) and substituting:

(k) The court shall ensure that the hearing on the petition takes place within six (6) months of the date that the petition is filed, unless the court determines an extension is in the best interest of the child. The court shall provide a ruling on the petition within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the hearing and shall enter an order that makes specific findings of fact and conclusions of law within thirty (30) days of the ruling. If an

order has not been entered within thirty (30) days from the court's ruling, then the petitioner or respondent has grounds to request that the court of appeals grant an order expediting entry of the order.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-117, is amended by deleting subdivision (c)(3) in its entirety.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.